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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 4 November 1991, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. SHIHABI	(Saudi Arabia)
later:	Mr. ROGERS (Vice-President)	(Belize)

- Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs [15] (continued)

(b) Election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 15 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS:

(b) ELECTION OF 18 MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: This afternoon the Assembly will proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1991.

The 18 outgoing members are: the Bahamas, Brazil, Cameroon, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United States of America and Zambia. These 18 States are eligible for immediate re-election.

I should like to remind members that as of 1 January 1992 the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia and Zaire. The names of these 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

(The President)

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the States which will remain members of the Council after 1 January 1992, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, four from Asian States, two from Eastern European States, three from Latin American and Caribbean States and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, and not exceeding in number the seats to be filled, will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

I shall now call on members wishing to speak before the election.

Mr. WALKER (Jamaica): I am speaking in my capacity as Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group for the month of November to say that the Group has not been able to endorse the correct number of candidates for election to the Economic and Social Council. There are five candidates for the three vacancies on the Council which are available to the Group. The candidates are Brazil, Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Suriname.

Mr. SALAH (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Asian Group for the month of November, to inform the Assembly that the Group has been unable to agree on a clean slate of candidates for election to the Economic and Social Council. There are seven candidates for the four vacancies available to the Asian Group: Bangladesh, India, Kuwait, Mongolia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Yemen.

The PRESIDENT: Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers, and to write on them the names of the States for which they want to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names than the number of seats assigned to the region in question will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper which do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ramadan (Egypt), Mr. Lahdevirta (Finland), Mr. Sastrawan (Indonesia), Ms. Laviada (Mexico), Mr. Eltchenko (Ukraine) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.30 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting for the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council is as follows:

GROUP A

Number of ballot papers:	158
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	157
Abstentions:	5
Number of members voting:	152
Required two-thirds majority:	102
Number of votes obtained:	
Ethiopia	149
Angola	147
Madagascar	145
Benin	142
Swaziland	139
Congo	2
Cameroon	1
Kenya	1

GROUP B

Number of ballot papers:	158
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	158
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	157
Required two-thirds majority:	105
Number of votes obtained:	
India	127
Bangladesh	116
Philippines	112
Kuwait	88
Yemen	60
Viet Nam	58
Mongolia	39
Indonesia	2

GROUP C

Number of ballot papers:	158
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	158
Abstentions:	9
Number of members voting:	149
Required two-thirds majority:	100
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	121
Belarus	105
Czechoslovakia	47
Hungary	1
Ukraine	1

GROUP D

Number of ballot papers:	158
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	158
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	157
Required two-thirds majority:	105
Number of votes obtained:	
Brazil	118
Suriname	100
Colombia	89
Nicaragua	80
Paraguay	61
Uruguay	3
Cuba	2
Honduras	1

GROUP E

Number of ballot papers:	158
Number of invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	156
Abstentions:	5
Number of members voting:	151
Required two-thirds majority:	101
Number of votes obtained:	
Belgium	144
Australia	138
Italy	136
United States of America	127
Netherlands	2
New Zealand	2
Ireland	1

The following countries, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1992: Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Madagascar, Philippines, Poland, Swaziland, and the United States of America.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States that have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

Since three seats remain to be filled - one from among the Asian States, and two from among the Latin American and Caribbean States - we shall now proceed to a second ballot. In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure, this ballot will be restricted to the two States from among the

(The President)

Asian States, namely Kuwait and Yemen, which were not elected but obtained the largest numbers of votes and to the four States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, namely Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Suriname, which were not elected but obtained the largest numbers of votes. Ballot papers will now be distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they want to vote. Ballot papers marked "B" containing the name of a State other than Kuwait or Yemen, as well as those containing the name of more than one State, will be declared invalid. Ballot papers marked "D" containing the name of a State other than Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay or Suriname, as well as those containing the names of more than two States, will be declared invalid.

(The President)

I call on the representative of Yemen.

Mr. AL-ALFI (Yemen) (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to thank those States that voted in favour of Yemen. Yemen does not wish to compete with Kuwait for the remaining seat, and we therefore withdraw our name.*

The PRESIDENT: In the light of the statement by the representative of Yemen, Kuwait and Viet Nam now have the greatest number of votes in Group B. Hence, ballot papers marked "B", for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Kuwait or Viet Nam or if they contain the name of more than one State. Ballot papers marked "D", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay or Suriname or if they contain the names of more than two States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ramadan (Egypt), Mr. Lahdevirta (Finland), Mr. Sastrawan (Indonesia), Ms. Laviada (Mexico) and Mr. Eltchenko (Ukraine) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

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* Mr. Rogers (Belize), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was suspended at 5.10 p.m. and resumed at 6 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting for the Asian State is as follows:

GROUP B

Number of ballot papers:	152
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	151
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	148
Required two-thirds majority:	99
Number of votes obtained:	
Kuwait	105
Viet Nam	43

Kuwait, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the State that has just been elected to the Economic and Social Council.

The result of the voting for the Latin American and Caribbean States is as follows:

GROUP D

Number of ballot papers:	152
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	152
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	151
Required two-thirds majority:	101
Number of votes obtained:	
Suriname	99
Colombia	88
Nicaragua	64
Paraguay	39

The PRESIDENT: Since two seats remain to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, we shall now proceed to the second restricted ballot.

I call on the representative of Paraguay.

Mr. PAPPALARDO (Paraguay) (interpretation from Spanish): Paraguay is grateful to all the countries that voted for it in the first two rounds of balloting, but has now decided to withdraw its candidacy.

The PRESIDENT: Members have heard the statement just made by the representative of Paraguay. This third round of balloting shall be restricted to the following four States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States: Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Suriname, which were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the ballot just taken. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

(The President)

The ballot papers will now be distributed.

May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the two States for which they want to vote. Ballot papers containing the names of States other than Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay or Suriname or containing more than two names will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ramadan (Egypt), Mr. Lahdevirta (Finland), Mr. Sastrawan (Indonesia), Ms. Laviada (Mexico) and Mr. Eltchenko (Ukraine) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 6.15 p.m. and resumed at 6.35 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting for the Latin American and Caribbean States is as follows:

GROUP D

Number of ballot papers:	149
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	149
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	149
Required two-thirds majority:	100
Number of votes obtained:	
Suriname	122
Colombia	96
Nicaragua	63

Suriname, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the State that has just been elected to the Economic and Social Council.

Since one seat remains to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, we shall now proceed to the third restricted ballot.

This fourth round of balloting will be restricted to the two States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States which were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Colombia and Nicaragua. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they want to vote. Ballot

(The President)

papers containing the name of a State other than Colombia or Nicaragua or containing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ramadan (Egypt), Mr. Lahdevirta (Finland), Mr. Sastrawan (Indonesia), Ms. Laviada (Mexico) and Mr. Eltchenko (Ukraine) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 6.50 p.m. and resumed at 7.15 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting for the Latin American and Caribbean States is as follows:

GROUP D

Number of ballot papers:	141
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	141
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	141
Required two-thirds majority:	94
Number of votes obtained:	
Colombia	92
Nicaragua	49

Mr. MAYORGA-CORTES (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): To save time and for the sake of unity among the Latin American and Caribbean States, Nicaragua withdraws its candidature in order that Colombia may be elected.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed to the first unrestricted ballot, since no candidate received the required two-thirds majority and one seat still remains to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States on the Economic and Social Council. This round of balloting is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure. Under the rules of procedure the following countries are not entitled to stand for election as they are already members of the Council: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 7.30 p.m. and resumed at 7.35 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting for the Latin American and Caribbean States is as follows:

GROUP D

Number of ballot papers:	131
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	130
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	128
Required two-thirds majority:	86
Colombia	110
Nicaragua	8
Paraguay	6
Cuba	4

Colombia, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1992.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate Colombia, which has just been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 15 (b).

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.